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An introduction precedes each selection. Then comes the Greek text, with the translation below. At the bottom of the page stand the notes, with explanations of rare words not found in Liddell and Scott (there are many of these), or of the many strange forms due to illiteracy of the writers, and with frequent references to the papyri collections and to the Greek Bible.

Of the 55 selections, 15 are from the Oxyrhynchus Papyri, edited by Grenfell and Hunt. Twenty-nine fall in the first or second century A. D. About half are private letters; the rest are mainly official or semi-official documents. There is also a question to the oracle, a magical formula, a magical incantation, a Christian prayer, a Christian amulet, etc.

In connection with the private letters, the editor remarks (p. xxvi) on the "lengthy introductions and closing greetings with their constantly recurring formal and stereotyped phrases".

The value of the papyri for Bible study is emphasized. The editor points out (pp. xxix ff.) that many of the so-called 'peculiarities' of Biblical Greek are due to the writer's having made use of the *κοινή* or ordinary colloquial Greek; and that Hebrew influence in the New Testament has been assumed, in cases where the papyri now show that no such influence need be assumed, in order to explain 'peculiarities' (cf. A. T. Robertson's valuable Short Grammar of the Greek New Testament, pp. 6-7, a work which Dr. Milligan seems to have overlooked: see THE CLASSICAL WEEKLY 3.177-178). On p. xxx, *αἰώνιος*, *πρεσβύτερος*, *σωτήρ*, etc., are cited in a list of words whose use in the New Testament the papyri help us to understand. The Index of Biblical References is quite full, containing e. g. 78 passages from the Acts referred to in the volume.

The value of the papyri for the historian may be inferred from such titles as Petition of a Tax-Farmer (No. 10), Contract of Apprenticeship (20), A Register of Paupers (31). Of interest here are such facts as that a foreigner entering the military service of Rome changed his name (36), or the frequent identification of a person, in the legal selections, by some scar (*οὐλή*) or mark. Of further interest to the Latin student are 11, Preparations for a Roman Visitor, and 40, containing a letter of the Emperor Claudius to an athletic club.

As 'human documents', the non-official selections or private letters possess especial interest. Good examples of this are 37, Letter of a Prodigal Son, and 42, A Boy's Letter. The prodigal son, in the Fayûm, writes to his mother, expressing shame for his conduct, begging forgiveness, and telling of his wretched plight. The letter is of the second century A. D. Illiterate as it is, its simplicity, its unstudied character, its earnestness render it highly pathetic. Forty-two is a boy's letter of the second or third

century A. D., complaining to his father, who had not taken him to Alexandria. The language is illiterate. The boy's angry reproaches and sarcasm are most vivid.

Hilarion, writing to his wife Alis, twice bids her not to worry (12); a man in money difficulties receives subtle counsel explaining how to get on the good side of his creditor (15); a soldier, writing to his father, says that he writes 'that I may kiss your hand, because you brought me up well' (36); a letter of consolation from a woman adds 'but, for all that, no one can do any real good in the presence of such bereavement' (38); a letter to two sons of a dead man hints that they were more interested in the property than in the person of the deceased (50).

There is human interest, too, in some of the official or semi-official documents; twins serving in the temple of Serapis petition the king and queen because their wages are not paid (5); a boy is apprenticed to a weaver by contract (20); the parents of a spendthrift youth publish a notice that they will not assume his debts (27); a woman's will bequeaths all to her daughter, cutting off her grandson with a shilling—here the conventional eight drachmas (30); five of his brother priests complain against a priest for wearing woolen garments and long hair (33); an athletic club receives notice of the admission of a new member, and the Emperor Claudius writes his thanks to the same club for their gift of a golden crown (40).

Some misprints have been noted. Though the editorial work is in general well done and the translation is in smooth, idiomatic English, still in a few places I should question the correctness or adequacy of the translation or the notes. But lack of space forbids detailed enumeration and examination of these matters. Besides, the main purpose of this review is to call attention to the nature and value of the contents of this book.

JOHN CUNNINGHAM ROBERTSON.  
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#### THE NEW YORK LATIN CLUB

The mid-winter meeting of The New York Latin Club was held on February 3, following a luncheon at The Gregorian. About seventy-five persons were present. In introducing the guest of honor and speaker of the day, Professor Edward K. Rand of Harvard University, President Harter said that the members of the club would be glad to turn their attention for a while from the mechanical side of teaching Latin to the inspirational outlook upon its literature promised by Professor Rand's paper, Ovid, and the Spirit of Metamorphosis. The pleasure anticipated by all present was fully realized.

Beginning with a quotation of Palgrave's severe judgment of Ovid, the speaker passed in rapid review various estimates placed upon the poet by his contemporaries and subsequent critics, and showed how great was his influence, through Boccaccio, upon Shakespeare. Versifying was naturally easy to Ovid, as to Pope and Lamartine, who "lisp'd in numbers for the numbers came". His extraordinary fondness for mythical romances, which the storehouse of antiquity furnished him without measure, never left him without a theme to clothe in poetic garb. What Tibullus and other elegiac writers treated with great seriousness and overweighted with sentiment Ovid handled humorously and in lighter fashion. He was indebted to his contemporary poets and they to him. Professor Rand by clever metrical translations of passages from Horace and Ovid showed how they paid tribute to each other, imitation being the mark of appreciation. He warned readers against taking too seriously Ovid's accounts of lovers' woes and against assigning to the poet himself sentiments expressed by his unfortunate characters. He thinks that modern readers lose much by failing to detect the subtle humor of the poet and by reading extracts regardless of their context.

Fortunately for his auditors and for the more general public Professor Rand's paper will be printed in a volume shortly to be issued from the press of the Houghton Mifflin Company, entitled *Harvard Essays on Classical Subjects*, edited by Professor Herbert W. Smyth.

In a conference held after the general meeting of the Club the Executive Committee discussed the possibility of securing an endowment for more classical scholarships to be awarded to graduates of our city High Schools. The one Latin Scholarship now available is so eagerly sought by many worthy candidates that additional ones should be created. The gratifying report that the beginning Greek classes in different High Schools are unusually large would justify establishing one or more Greek scholarships. O would that some benevolent and generous friends of the Classics would contribute a fund whereby boys and girls of outstanding ability and limited finances might continue their classical studies!

ANNA P. MACVAY, *Censor*

### THE CLASSICAL CLUB OF PHILADELPHIA

The Classical Club of Philadelphia celebrated its one hundredth meeting on Friday, February 9, at the University Club, with a dinner at which Professor Clifford H. Moore of Harvard University and Professor Wilfred P. Mustard of Johns Hopkins University were the guests of honor.

This Club is composed of men in Philadelphia and the vicinity who are interested in the study of Greek and Roman literature. The membership includes many representatives of the Faculties of the University of Pennsylvania and of Bryn Mawr, Haverford and Swarthmore Colleges, of the Central High School of Philadelphia and other educational institutions, besides several professional and business men of the city. The Club holds six meetings a year, and has been flourishing for over sixteen years—a rather notable record for an association of this kind.

The dinner was followed by numerous toasts, the President, Professor Roland G. Kent, of the University of Pennsylvania, acting as toastmaster, as follows:

Professor W. P. Mustard (Johns Hopkins), Former Members; Professor Ellis A. Schnabel (Central High School), Faithful Members; Professor Walter Dennison (Swarthmore), Classics in the West; Professor B. W. Mitchell, Secretary of the Club (Central High School), Hard Work; Mr. T. W. Pierce (a prominent lawyer of West Chester, Pa.), Classics for the Non-Classical; Professor C. H. Moore (Harvard), Honored Guests.

A Latin ode for the occasion was composed by Professor John C. Rolfe, of the University of Pennsylvania.

Later a regular meeting was held, at which Professor Moore gave the Club a critical analysis of the work of several Roman historians, in a paper entitled *Three Roman Historians*.

The officers of the Club for the current year are Professor R. G. Kent, President; Dr. F. B. Brandt, Central High School, Philadelphia, Vice-President; Dr. B. W. Mitchell, Secretary-Treasurer.

R. G. KENT.

The Latin Ode composed by Professor Rolfe, referred to in the foregoing letter from Professor Kent, is herewith presented. In a later issue space will be found, if possible, for the Latin menu.

Salvete, o comites, sollemnia qui celebrantes  
convenistis in hunc, docta caterva, locum.  
Nunc decet et vinum bibere et nunc volvere fumum,  
pectore tunc docti condere verba viri.  
Carus et exspectatus ades, doctissime, qui nunc  
sis decori nostris, vir sapiens<sup>1</sup>, epulis.  
Iam centum noctes sollemnia talia adimus,  
omnibus at nondum tot numerare licet.  
Unus et alter adest qui nulli defuit horae,  
multos, heu! frustra quaerimus ante notos.  
Conditor<sup>2</sup>, oceanus nos inter volvitur atrox;  
mors inimitior, a! te habet alte senex<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Professor C. H. Moore.

<sup>2</sup> Professor Alfred Gudeman.

<sup>3</sup> This verse and the next refer to Professor W. A. Lamberton.